

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Supplemental Amendment After Final (“Supplemental Amendment”), Applicant proposes to cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 16. No new matter is introduced.

The Supplemental Amendment supplements the Amendment After Final filed on December 3, 2007.

Prior to entry of the Supplemental Amendment, claims 1-22 were pending in the application. After entry of the Supplemental Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-22 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claim 16 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 56 of copending U.S. patent application No. 10/736,832 (“the ’832 application”); and rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,073,870 to Morita (“Morita”). The Examiner also allowed claims 1-15 and 17-22.

Allowed Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner’s statement that claims 1-15 and 17-22 are allowed.

Provisional Rejection

Applicant proposes to cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 16. Applicant submits that this cancellation obviates the Examiner’s provisional rejection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant proposes to cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 16. Applicant submits that this cancellation obviates the Examiner’s rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Request for Reconsideration and Allowance

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-15 and 17-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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